

Montgomery County China Sister Cities Mission Trip Information



Sept. 15-25th, 2013 Shanghai - Xi'an - Benxi - Beijing

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett is leading a 2013 trade and Sister-City China Mission trip from Sept. 15 to Sept. 23, 2013. The Mission is organized by Montgomery County Government and Maryland China Business Council (MCBC) with the support of the State of Maryland's Maryland Center China (MCC) in Shanghai, which has been assisting local companies in China since 1996. This combination of experience and long term relationships offers a unique opportunity to explore, enter or expand in one of the world's most dynamic and fast growing markets and destinations.

Group Travel Information

There will be four group options for travel based on interest of the trip and length of stay. Everyone is expected to travel from Shanghai to Xi'an to participate in Sister City activities. Once the activities are completed, we will split into four groups on September 21st.

Fly to Shanghai Sept. 15	Shanghai + Xi'an Sept. 16-21	Groups will split into 4 on Sept. 21	Sept. 23	Sept. 25
all groups will fly out of DC on Sept. 15 and land in Shanghai on Sept. 16	all groups will participate in Sister Cities Delegation activities in Shanghai from Sept. 16 - 18 and in Xi'an from Sept. 18 - 21	Group 1 (Business Development): fly to Benxi with County Executive	Group 1: fly to Beijing	Group 1: fly back to DC
		Group 2 (Cultural Exchange): fly to Beijing	Group 2: fly back to DC	n/a
		Group 3: on your own (stay in Xi'an or fly to other destinations)	Group 3: fly back to DC	n/a
		Group 4: fly back to DC	n/a	n/a



Price Information

Estimated Trip Cost Per Person

Total costs are **estimated*** and does not include travel insurance (see notes below)

Group	Single Economy	Single Business	Double Economy	Double Business
1	\$3,843	\$7,308	\$3,378	\$6,843
2	\$3,035	\$6,500	\$2,510	\$5,975
3	\$2,940	\$6,405	\$2,410	\$5,875
4	\$2,820	\$6,285	\$2,355	\$5,820

Land Package Costs

Group	Single Economy	Single Business	Double Economy	Double Business
1	\$2,398	\$2,398	\$1,933	\$1,933
2	\$1,590	\$1,590	\$1,065	\$1,065
3	\$1,495	\$1,495	\$965	\$965
4	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$910	\$910

Estimated Total Cost Includes:

1. International flights for economy class (DC -> Shanghai and Beijing -> DC). Based on estimated airfare of \$1,445 for economy class on Air Canada with 1 stop. For business class, additional cost is approx \$3,400 per person.
2. Land Package Costs:
 - o Transfer to hotels from airports if traveling with group
 - o Deluxe hotel accommodation
 - o Domestic flights in economy indicated on the itinerary
 - o Local transportation
 - o Daily meals as indicated on the itinerary
 - o Sightseeing tours indicated on the itinerary
 - o Admission fees, Show, special banquets as indicated
3. Travel Accidental Insurance in China
4. English-speaking tour guides
5. Administrative fee for Montgomery Sister Cities (considered as a tax-deductible donation)

* Estimated Total Cost Does NOT Include:

1. Travel Insurance (Medical/Trip Cancellation) 5% of cost
2. Gratuity for tour guide and driver (\$8.00/day)
3. Chinese Visa fee (\$140 for application, \$30 for travel agency fee)
4. Any personal expenditure, such as phone bills, laundry, postage...etc
5. Any other charges caused by the acts of God, natural disasters, fires, weather, governmental and local authority's orders, political change, strikes, war, riots, quarantine, custom regulations, damages or injury caused by the accident beyond the responsibilities of travel agents and incurred due to the tourist action violating the law
6. Any items not listed in the itinerary



Daily Itinerary and Track Information



Each day, itineraries will be broken down into 2 tracks. Participants can choose tracks based on interest. Itineraries will be finalized a month before the trip.

Track 1: Business/Economic Development

Track 2: Cultural Exchange

		Track 1 Business Development	Track 2 Cultural Exchange
D1 Sunday 15		Fly to Shanghai	
D2 Monday 16		Land in Shanghai	
		Optional Night Cruise/Huangpu River Tour	
D3 Tuesday 17	Morning	Pudong Tour: Visit Pudong government, Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park and companies with ties to MC	Maryland Office in Shanghai
	Afternoon	Business Roundtable	Bund Nanjing Road Shanghai Museum
	Evening	Official Welcoming Banquet hosted by CE	
D4 Wednesday 18	Morning	Chindex Hospital Visit	Tai Chi Practice at Local Park Yuyuan Garden
	Afternoon	Free Leisure Time	
	Evening	Magnetically Levitated Train Fly to Xi'an	
D5 Thursday 19	Morning	Terra Cotta Warriors	
	Afternoon	Middle School # 1 Sister City Ceremony	
	Evening	Xi'an Welcoming Banquet	



D6 Friday 20	Morning	Trade Port or Hi-Tech Zone	Shangxi Provincial Historical Museum
	Afternoon	Universities	Noodle-Making Lunch Ancient City Wall Big Wild Goose Pagoda
	Evening	Imperial Dumpling Banquet Dinner Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show	
D7 Saturday 21	Morning	Logistics	Fly to Beijing at 8am Great Wall
	Afternoon	Fly to Benxi	2008 Beijing Olympic Stadium Hutong Tour
	Evening	Dinner Free Leisure Time	Free Leisure Time
D8 Sunday 22	Morning	China Medicine Capital	Tiananmen Square Forbidden City
	Afternoon	Government Officials Benxi Water Cave	Temple of Heaven
	Evening	Free Leisure Time	Peking Roast Duck Banquet Optional Legend of Kung-Fu Show
D9 Monday 23		Option 1: Fly to Benxi at 8am Great Wall Option 2: Fly to Beijing 11am Free Leisure Day	Fly Back to DC
D10 Tuesday 24	Morning	Hi-Tech Park and Companies	N/A
	Afternoon	Option 1: Tiananmen Square Forbidden City Option 2: Peptide Valley	
		Evening	
	D11 Wednesday 25	Morning	
Afternoon		Fly Back to DC	
Evening			



Registration and Payment Information:

1. Registration is closed for Group 2. We are only accepting registration for businesses.
2. Deposit of \$300, cash or check only, made payable to travel agent listed below by July 31st, 2013. This is non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Registration forms and photocopies of passports should be returned with deposit check. Please indicate if you would like to purchase the optional travel insurance (5% of total cost). Travel insurance is due on August 15th.
4. It is recommended that airfare be booked approximately two months before departure date (July 15th). If the travel agent below is used, payment for airfare must be made in full. If a credit card is used, there will be 5% surcharge.
5. Remainder of cost for land package must be made to the travel agent listed below by August 15th, 2013. If a credit card is used, there will be 5% surcharge.
6. \$100 administrative fee payable to Montgomery Sister Cities, preferably by check, is due August 15th, 2013.

Next Steps:

1. If you are a representative of an organization in government, business, education, or a civic group, please submit a SHORT 100-word bio with photograph to yumi.ko@montgomerycountymd.gov. Include contact information (mailing address, phone, email, and a company web address). If you are not a part of the official delegation, you may send in your full name, affiliation, and contact info.
2. Your visa application should be submitted no later than August 15th. The application fee is \$140 and you may submit it yourself. However, we recommend that you use our travel agent for a small fee of \$30 per application.
3. You will receive e-mail reminders to remind you of the following due dates:
 - a. Deposits with registration forms and passport copies are due on July 31
 - b. Bio information is due July 31
 - c. Travel insurance and total trip costs are due on August 15
 - d. Sister Cities Payment due August 15
 - e. Visa application due August 15



4. We will host an orientation during the first week of September. You will receive an email once the date and location has been finalized.

Contact Information

Travel Agent:

Contact: Wendy Liu
China Travel Service DC (Nexus Holidays)
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Trip Coordinator:

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